



City of Cincinnati Board of Health Finance Committee

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

Dr. Bhati, Chair of the Board Finance Committee, called the July 21, 2020 Finance Committee meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

Roll Call

Members present: Amar Bhati, chair, Robert Brown, Edward Herzig, Dominic Hopson, Phil Lichtenstein, Melba Moore.

Topic	Discussion	Action/Motion
Approval of Minutes	<p>The Committee Chair asked the Committee members if everyone had the opportunity to review the minutes from the last meeting.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> That the Board of Health (BOH) Finance Committee approve the minutes of the June 16, 2020 Board of Health Finance Committee Meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Lawniczak reminded the Committee that ex officio members have all the rights and privileges of full members including making and seconding motions. Ex officio members also count towards a quorum.</p>	<p><u>Motion: Herzig</u> <u>Second: Hopson</u> <u>Action: Passed</u></p>
Review of Contracts for July 28, 2020 BOH Meeting	<p>The Chair began the review of the contracts that will go to the Board of Health (BOH) for approval.</p> <p>Research, Evaluation, and Social Solutions, Inc. – This accounts receivable grant allows CHD to participate in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded project - Maximizing Agencies' Capacity to Evaluate Outcomes (MACEO) which focuses on Evaluation Capacity Building through a virtual eLearning course. This project is dedicated to public health workforce development with a focus on the public health core competencies of Leadership, Systems Thinking, Community Dimensions of Practice, and Program Planning and Policy Development. The digital learning tool focuses at two ecological levels - the individual health worker and the organization.</p> <p>Typically, with NIH projects they provide incentives to study participants. These funds will come to the health department in the amount of \$250.00 per participant. The term of the grant is September 1, 2019 to November 28, 2019 for \$5,000.</p>	

	<p>medication assisted treatment, addictions counseling, recovery supports, and recovery housing costs.</p> <p>CHD is partnering with Talbert House who will place a case manager at the Health Centers and in underserved communities. Using SOR funds, Talbert House will target Hamilton County residents seeking services at any of the Cincinnati Health Department medical clinics and those residing in four of Hamilton County's underserved neighborhoods (Lincoln Heights, Woodlawn, Lockland, and Walnut Hills). Talbert House will utilize their current model of outreach and focus on African Americans and those high-risk communities while partnering with the City of Cincinnati Health Department. Talbert House will provide outreach and engagement services utilizing a case manager to intensify efforts to engage African Americans in treatment, prevention, and other substance abuse educational services. Today, Talbert House is the largest substance abuse treatment agency in Hamilton County serving over 36,000 clients annually. Talbert House also owns and manages an array of properties and programs including emergency shelters, transitional housing, recovery housing and permanent supporting housing. Annually more than 2,000 individuals and families are served through these programs. Recovery housing programs allows and welcomes MAT for residents. Talbert House projects to serve fifteen individuals and/or families in recovery housing and an additional ten in treatment for a total of 25 served. The term is from June 4, 2020 to September 30, 2020 for an amount of \$199,031.00.</p> <p>Commissioner Moore walked through the contract and answered questions from the Committee. Talbert house and CHD are working together to reach hard to reach populations. CHD will help identify potential clients for Talbert House and get them into a system of care. The Chair asked if this is a new program or amplifying what is already being done. Commissioner Moore stated that it is a brand-new program for the grant dollars but works in tandem with Safe Places Cincy.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> That the Board of Health Finance Committee recommend approval.</p> <p>University of Cincinnati Medical Center, LLC Lab Services – This accounts payment contract is to enter into agreement with the University of Cincinnati Medical Center to provide laboratory services for COVID-19 testing to residents of the Cincinnati community regardless of the individual's ability to pay. The term is from June 19, 2020 to December 31, 2020 in the amount up to \$1,000,000.00.</p>	<p><u>Motion: Herzig</u> <u>Second: Hopson</u> <u>Action: Passed</u></p>
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	<p>Mr. Hopson walked through the agreement and answered questions from the Committee. Our previous agreement was capped at \$250,000 and we have already expended \$200,000. We are utilizing other labs that are funded by the state. CHD wants to leverage our other partnerships but also ensure that we can continue to provide testing in our community. The Chair asked how many tests were performed with UC? Mr. Hopson said it was \$70 per test and we have completed about 3,000 tests. This is only for processing the test.</p> <p>Mr. Brown asked what the average turn around time is on the testing? Mr. Hopson said that at this point in time, no one has the answer and said this is a nationwide problem. The first time we did the pop-up testing we had results back in one day so we told people they would have results within two days. Those tests came back a week later and they are currently ranging from four to ten days depending on the lab we use. UC just increased their capacity to 2,000 tests per day. Hamilton County is also testing. Mr. Brown stated it is a problem. Mr. Bhati asked if there were a way to prioritize positives? Mr. Hopson said the lab calls us with the positives so we can start calling them right away, the negatives are sent via fax.</p> <p>Dr. Herzig stated that at \$70 a test, a million dollars is 14,285 tests. He asked when we will reach this limit? Mr. Hopson stated that we are running 2,000 tests a week. The County has an RFP for \$19,000,000 for testing. Hopefully, we will be able to work with whomever wins this award and utilize these resources.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> That the Board of Health Finance Committee recommend approval.</p>	<p><u>Motion: Herzig</u> <u>Second:</u> <u>Lichtenstein</u> <u>Action: Passed</u></p>
Home Health Update	<p>Ms. Virginia Scott was unable to attend the meeting, however, Mr. Hopson said that because of COVID-19 we have not been focused on home health and are not sending nurses into people's homes. Dr. Bhati suggested that at a future point, the Committee receive a report on our efforts regarding patients with chronic conditions.</p>	
Anti-tobacco Update	<p>Ms. Tonia Smith discussed our tobacco free living program. There are two initiatives: tobacco retail license program and the tobacco youth prevention grant. While we were awarded \$132,000 under the grant program, we were unable to complete the grant due to COVID-19. Other grantees were in the same position, so the grantor (the Ohio Department of Health) extended the grant by a year.</p> <p>The tobacco retail license program started December 1, 2019. The license program enforces the ordinance that raised the age of tobacco sales to 21 years old. The license program supports a tobacco sanitarian. There are approximately 305 tobacco retailers in Cincinnati. The licenses are \$500 annually and are obtained from CAGIS. To date we have licensed 199 establishments. We are in the process of inspecting retailers and working to have additional retailers licensed. 68 percent of licensed retailers have had their initial inspection. Later we</p>	

	<p>will begin testing with underaged buyers (18 – 21). We have a draft letter for unlicensed retailers and are awaiting approval to be able to mail it. The Chair asked if there were difficulties doing inspections during COVID? Ms. Smith stated that food inspectors who were already going into some of these establishments were including tobacco enforcement in their inspections. A protocol was created for the tobacco sanitarian including mask and glove wearing. If he feels unsafe, he comes back at another time.</p> <p>Dr. Bhati asked about how the sanitarians were involved in the program? Ms. Smith stated there is a tobacco 21 sanitarian that oversees the tobacco program. However, for establishments that have a food license, food sanitarian includes tobacco enforcement in their inspections. Underage buying attempts will be overseen by the tobacco 21 sanitarian.</p> <p>Mr. Brown asked if we were adequately staffed for this? Ms. Smith said yes, the tobacco 21 sanitarian is working with the food sanitarians who only spend a couple of minutes looking at tobacco 21 compliance. If there is an issue such as no signage or license, the tobacco 21 sanitarian follows-up with the establishment.</p>	
Financial Update	<p>Mr. Hopson stated that the City is still closing out the accounts for the end of year, but there should be no changes to the figures presented. Drops in expenses were due to shutdowns and slowdowns due to COVID-19. Personnel expenses were up and would have been more if not for the TELs. COVID impacted revenue, reducing clinical revenue by 10 percent. Paying attention to schools opening and the impact on our school-based health care including dental and vision services. Discussion followed on staffing levels, being able to fill vacant positions, and using telehealth to provide services.</p> <p>We made up most of our revenue losses through grants. We hope to provide the entire BOH with a list of all the grants we were awarded during the year.</p> <p>Revenue was down in May but has increased in June. With schools opening we'll see revenue coming in from those clinics in September.</p> <p>CCPC increased the basic fee for dental services by \$10 last month.</p> <p>Working through some of our AR challenges including billing insurance companies for telehealth. System of sending invoices for self-pay is now in place. When we send notices, we include a list of tools available to assist them in making payments.</p>	
Review Action Items	<p>The Chair asked for people to send meeting location ideas to Mr. Lawniczak. We will continue to meet at 3:30 for now, but we may change to later in the evening or earlier during the day to make the meeting easier to attend.</p>	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide breakdown from Medicaid maximization between dental and medical. <i>Next month.</i> 2. Update Committee on home health progress. <i>September.</i> 3. Report back to the Committee on data from Voice of Your Customer anti-tobacco media campaign. Campaign stalled and we have no analytics. <i>September.</i> 	
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Meeting Adjourned 4:46 p.m.

Next Meeting August 18, 2020 at 3:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jon Lawniczak